BYELORUSSIAN YOUTH

БЕЛАРУСКАЯ МОЛАДЗЬ

Vol. 1, № 2 (28) Winter 1972-73 Год. 1, Но. 2 (28)

SYMON THE MUSICIAN

FROM INTRODUCTION TO BOOK III

O my land, my land so lovely,
Well-loved corner of my race!
What in God's world is more beloved
Than these banks, with brightness graced,
Where the rivers glitter silver,
Where the woods hum murmuring song,
Where buckwheat breathes honey, quivering
Cornfields murmur on and on;
Than the monuments unending
Of the marshes, of thy pools,
Where wide space its thoughts is blending
Under freshets gushing cool,
Where the osiers weep in autumn,
Where in spring bright meadows blow,
Where birch-trees in a path long-trodden
Like a lovely highway grow?

Ah, you gravemounds, old past counting,
Witness of ages deaf and still,
Who has raised you here, abounding?
By what hand and by whose will,
As guardians of old-time causes,
Were ye scattered on the plain?
What the centuries have taught ye,
You will not reveal again!
In uneven paths you sally
Forth where distances invite,
On towards the wondrous Vialla,
And where Dźvina shimmers bright.

continued on page 3

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EDITORIAL

The Byelorussian American Youth Organization is not the only organization in the United States which brings young Byelorussians together for the purpose of promoting a sense of ethnic pride and preserving the Byelorussian Culture. There are two other groups in existence with similar goals in this country.

Among these is the Byelorussian American Youth Organization in the State of Illinois, whose name falsely implies that it is a BAYO Branch. The BAYOSI was established in 1960 in the windy city of Chicago (ten years after the founding of the BAYO). The organization is fairly active however, they have little or no contact with any other Byelorussian Youth groups in this country.

Within our own organization the Cleveland Branch is illustrative of a once flourishing BAYO Branch which suffered from benign neglect by some of its elected officers. Younger and more responsible members have been elected to the Executive Committee of the Cleveland Branch, and it appears that the Branch will once again play an active role in Cleveland's large Byelorussian community.

The Byelorussian American Youth Association is the other organization which serves the youth. For most intensive purpose this organization can be categorized as being defunct. The organization successfully served the South River, New Jersey Byelorussian community for many years; however, time and the changing attitudes of many young Byelorussians have brought about the demise of this organization.

In recognition of some of these problems, the BAYO feels that a new sense of direction is needed in both Chicago and South River. One possible alternative is the amalgamation of these two organizations with the BAYO. In this way all three organizations of Byelorussian youth could strive to eradicate some of their common problems, and then go forward to unite all Byelorussians!

George Azarko

My native land! In earth's abundance
Where another to be found,
Where beside such waste and rubbish
Beauty rises to confound?
Where, among poverty, there blossom
Wondrous riches, bright and clear,
Where are human fate and fortune
Met with laughter as but here?

Jakub Kolas

Translated by Vera Rich

JAKUB KOLAS, IN MEMORY OF HIS 90th BIRTHDAY

November 3, 1882 — August 13, 1956



Jakub Kolas (Kanstancin Mickievich), like Janka Kupala is the greatest writer of poetry and prose in modern Byelorussian literature.

He was born on November 3, 1882 in Akinchycy, in the county of Miensk in central Byelorussia, where his father (a peasant without land) worked as a woodkeeper for Duke Radzivil. At that time, Byelorussia was under Tsarist-Russian occupation and a strict policy of russification was enforced. There were no Byelorussian schools and the Byelorussian language was forbidden not only in schools, but also in everyday life. Up until 1905, there was also no printing of books or newspapers in the Byelorussian language. Jakub Kolas, however did not agree with this policy of russification. His revolutionary activity, which consisted of his demands for the right to teach his pupils their native language, brought him imprisonment from 1908-1911 in Miensk.

Right from the start, Kolas printed his poems and short stories in the Byelorussian newspapers "Nasha Dola" (Our Fate) and "Nasha Niva" (Our Field). These two legal newspapers were printed in Vilna, starting in 1906. The first collection of his poems "Song of Sorrow" was published in 1910 in Vilna.

Even though prose writing had its origin in the Byelorussian literature at the end of the 19th century, Kolas is considered the Father of Byelorussian prose.

Already during his imprisonment in Miensk, he started and then finished after the October Revolution, his two most important works, the monumental poetic epics "The New Field" and "Symon, the Musician".

The poet, in his work "The New Field", using autobiographical material and taking advantage of the rich and beautiful Byelorussian landscapes as his background, illustrates the life and traditions of a Byelorussian peasant family at the end of the 19th centruy. This work is considered the first national epopee in the Byelorussian literature.

His other epic poem "Symon, the Musician", Jakub Kolas dedicated to the Byelorussian Youth. In this work, which also describes the beauty of Byelorussian landscapes, the poet relates the hardships and emotional suffering of the young peasant boy, Symon. Symon is exceptionally talented, but has no possibility for professional education, becomes a wandering musician and with his virtuous playing on the violin bewitches all his listeners. The tragedy of Symon, as of all Byelorussian youth at that time, was that the doors to any education were closed to them. The work "Symon, the Musician" is written in a very romantic style and is full of deep patriotic feelings.

To the October Revolution of 1917, Jakub Kolas, just as Janka Kupala, responded with hostility. Jakub Kolas expressed his hatred for the Soviet-Russian occupation of Byelorussia in his works from the years 1917-1921. His poems from that period are prohibited in the Soviet Union today. His later poems, which he wrote after complete emotional breakdown and spiritual imprisonment do not have the same rich poetic quality as those of earlier years. His poems and short stories written before 1921 and his epic poems "The New Field", "Symon, the Musician", "Tales of Life" and his first novel "In the Palessie Thickets" are examples of his literary genius and belong to the masterpieces of Byelorussian literature.

Jakub Kolas and Janka Kupala are giants of modern Byelorussian literature. However, they are quite different from one another. Janka Kupala, was and is the symbol of the Byelorussian national rebirth and the spiritual leader (prophet) of the Byelorussian people. Jakub Kolas, on the other hand, is the undisputed literary master, who with his poetry creates visions of the Byelorussian land, its nature and landscapes, the Byelorussian life, customs and psychology of the Byelorussian peasants.

In this fashion one supplements the other, and both of them left us a heritage of great literary treasures and the ideals and aspirations for a free Byelorussia.

Raisa Stankievic

BYELAVESKAYA PUSHCHA



Like a hill he stands amidst the forest
Be on the alert — that's written on his face,
Mighty horns, turned up above his forehead
Shine like two moons in their early phase.

Now dark and full of stern sublimity, now clear and joyful — the magnificent woody landscapes of the Byelaveskaya Pushcha are lovely and highly colourful. The fresh air of the forest is fragrant with pine resin. The spindle-shaped trunks of the ship-timber pines rise to their full height into the blue sky. The slightest rush of the wind, and they begin to bow and rustle as if they were golden masts. A short distance from this place, somewhere behind the gay pine grove on a hill, is the edge of the impenetrable thickets of a primeval forest.

Silence reigns in the damp semi-obscurity. Here the sound of an axe is never heard. Trees grow, strive for the sun, reach unprecedented heights, grow old, fall and rot, leaving the premises to undergrowth.

The stumps of the gigantic trees, overgrown with moss, rot on the ground. A new generation of trees struggles up through their dead corpses. It often happens that an old tree, blown over by the wind, does not reach the ground because of the support of its neighbours. Naked and leafless, with boughs beaten off, the skeletons of such trees, polished by the wind and rains, seem to be paralyzed with astonishment in queer poses, like the fantastic creatures of fairy-tales.

Step by step the gloomy thicket is imperceptibly overgrown with leafy trees — mainly of alder and rod. The damper the air, the sharper is the smell of meadow flowers. And farther away in the grasslands, bushy oaks stand like gigantic warriors and look down upon the motley lawn, gay

with summer flowers. Many of these oaks are thousands of years old and have been venerated by our pagan ancestors as Gods.

The birch grove makes way for a leafy wood. Here grow large grey-trunked fir and ash trees, elms and hornbeams, oaks and maples, rowan and nut trees. It seems there is no end to these innumerable woodland riches, to the poetic variety of nature.

The Byelaveskaya Pushcha represents a part of those magnificent primeval woods that in prehistoric times covered almost the whole European continent. For quantity, richness and variety of flora and fauna, for beauty of a landscape it takes first place among the enormous tracts of the European woodlands. The rarest beasts and birds which have already become extinct in all other countries are still living here under natural conditions.

The Pushcha is located 38 miles north-east of Brest in the Byelorussian SSR, in the watershed of the Western Bug, the Nieman and Prypiac rivers. It covers a territory of about 130 thousand hectares. The state border divides the Pushcha into two parts. The western part was given to Poland by Russia after the Second World War and the eastern part, which is larger is in the BSSR. These two parts form today a State Preserve in which the animals roam free. Hunting and tree felling within its borders are forbidden.

The forests of Byelaveskaya Pushcha have been widely known for centuries. In the 13th century, our ancestors built the settlement of Kamianez in the estuaries of the rivers of Lesnaya and Byelaya, a wild woodland at that time. An ancient white tower, 36 meters high (in Byelorussian called Byelaya Vezha) has been standing on a hill until the present day. From it comes the historic name of the enormous tracts of thickets around (in Byelorussian Pushcha).

Since the Ice Age the Byelaveskaya Pushcha is the only place in the world where the auroch — a woodland bull — has lived in freedom until the present day. By 1915 there were 730 aurochs in the Pushcha. Almost all of them were killed by the Germans during World War I (1914-1918) and some were taken to Germany and sold to various zoos and preserves. In 1941, on the eve of World War II, the Pushcha possessed no more than twenty aurochs. Today, their number has increased and they are once again multiplying and there are more than 300 aurochs in the Pushcha.

Walking into the woody clearance, the auroch bows his mighty horned head to his breast and suddenly stops, lit by the sun's rays. His neck, breast and even a good half of his back are covered with a dark brown, bushy mane. He is the undisputed master and the host of the Pushcha. His very appearance is astonishing because of his grandeur and might.

In addition to the aurochs, there are other dwellers of the Pushcha. Innumerable wild boars propagate and roam through the woods in herds,

lead by the strongest animal. The noble European stags also live here along with small roes and the red deer. Elsewhere in the bushes of marshy lands or on the water meadows of a river with low and boggy banks one may run into an elk.One also finds the beaver, otter, marten, polecat, ermine, squirrel, fox, badger, hare and the lynx at home in the Pushcha. Among the feathered inhabitants we find the nightingale, black starlings, cuckoos, blackcocks, heath cocks, wood cocks, wild ducks, cranes and white as well as black storks.

The black stork is a very rare bird who makes his nest (not like the white stork, who nestles near people) in the most out-of-the-way places, somewhere on the top of a venerable oak. In other European countries the black stork became extinct many years ago.

On April mornings one can usually hear the mating calls of the wood grouse. With wings pulled down he spreads his tail like a fan and stretches his neck and aims his eyebrows towards the sky. While calling to his mate he hears and sees nothing, being completely taken up by his song. This wild wood grouse is another specimen of those creatures that have survived since the Ice Age in the Pushcha. *Raisa Stankievic*

This is the first article describing a particular region in Byelorussia. We will continue these articles so that our young readers can imagine the beautiful landscapes of Byelorussia.

TO THE READERS OF BYELORUSSIAN YOUTH:

We are pleased to note that the general reaction to our first issue of the new BYELORUSSIAN YOUTH was a favorable and enthusiastic one.

In response to one common criticism, it was decided not to give BY a special cover because of the unreasonable, additional cost which it would involve. Another comment made by several people was that a greater portion of the articles should be printed in the Byelorussian language. On this several of my colleagues and I agree that while we should always include items in our native tongue, it must be realized that not all of our youth in the English-speaking world can read or even understand this language. Our aim is to draw young people together, not alienate them because they may never have had the opportunity to learn Byelorussian properly.

All in all, we thank the older generation for its moral and financial support, and hope that more and more young Byelorussians will be reading and contributing to their periodical. **Halina Tumash**

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU TO BE AN AMERICAN OF BYELORUSSIAN DESCENT?

At one time or another someone you know must have asked you this very question. Now BY is curious to hear your replies to this query. The ten most interesting answers will be published in our next issue! If you do not wish your name printed, tell us.

Send your thoughts to: BYELORUSSIAN YOUTH
c/o Halina Tumash, 3441 Tibbett Avenue, Bronx, New York 10463.



Paul Nedwell, is a 28-year-old Ukrainian--American writer and poet. He has written several articles concerning Byelorussia which have been published in Ukrainian American newspapers.

Paul Nedwell

*THE STUBBORN AUROCHS**

In better days, the aurochs roamed the plains
And forests of the Byelorussian land,
Unhampered by the land's inhabitants.
But then man came to stay. He set his hand
To clearing the land to make way for his crops.
And soon after he began to kill
The proud aurochs for food and sport. And through
The many centuries, from every hill
In Byelorussia this proud beast disappeared,
Till only but a few were left, and they,
Near fifty, in zoos around the world were caged.
But then for them there dawned a brighter day.
In Byelorussia once more were they to roam,
And this time they were to be protected in this land.
And today here now there are more than just a few.
How stubbornly they had survived under man's hand!
As stubbornly also survives the soul
And spirit of the Byelorussian nation;
And stubbornly her people will survive
Their trials under Russian occupation,
Until rightly in Byelorussian hands
Will be the valiant Byelorussian nation.

December 1970

* — the auroch, the European bison, is one of the oldest and rarest animals in the world. Once seemingly doomed to extinction, this proud beast now roams wild in the Belovezhskaya Preserve in Soviet Byelorussia.

AMERICANS SPEAK OUT ABOUT BYELORUSSIA

Hon. Roman C. Pucinski, Congressman from Illinois.

"The first all-Byelorussian Congress met in Miensk on December 5th, 1917 and adopted a resolution by an overwhelming majority which endorsed the right of nations to self-determination and called for the establishment of a democratic government to be designated the Byelorussian National Republic. On December 10, 1918, the Red army seized Miensk and established a government of military revolutionary committees. Byelorussia's efforts to establish an anti-Bolshevik force failed and with the Treaty of Riga in 1921, ending the war between Poland and Bolshevik-Russia, Byelorussia was partially divided between her neighbors, and the remainder came under Soviet control."

Hon. Edward J. Patten, Congressman from New Jersey."

"The history of this tiny nation goes back many centuries. Through all the centuries of tribulation the Byelorussians have remained a strong and proud people. While it is predominantly an agricultural country, Byelorussia has industrialized greatly in the last three decades. She is also rich in resources which are needed by a nation to support a stable economy, so it is no wonder that the Soviet Union has kept a strong hold over Byelorussia. But the Byelorussian people want to be free and I know that the free world would like to see them free.

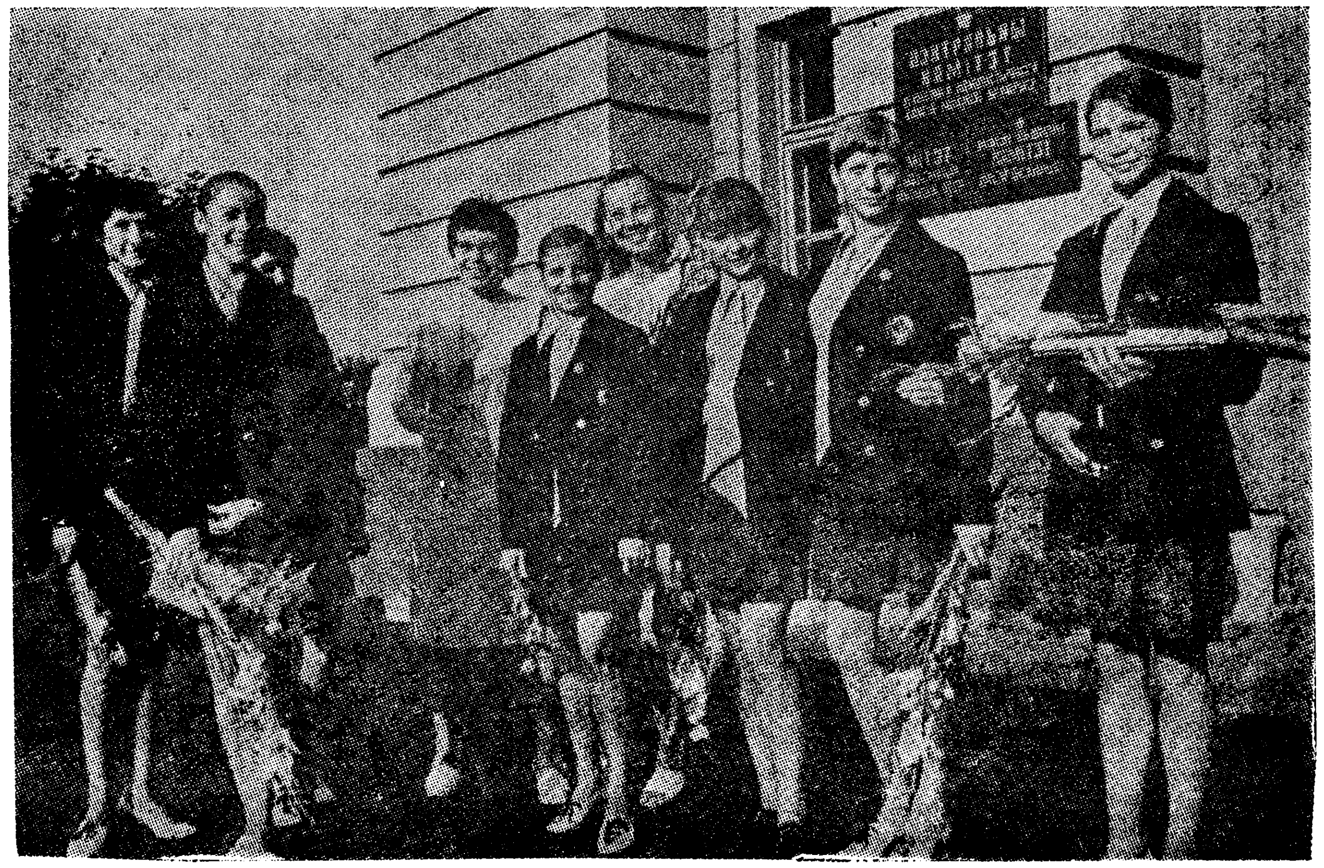
In 1517, Francisak Skaryna from Polacak printed and published the first book in Byelorussia — the Bible — almost half a century ahead of the first printed Russian book. His pioneering endeavor ushered the flow of culture into Eastern Europe. When Skaryna took his books to Moscow, they were labeled as heretic, seized and burned in the public square. Yet he brought the barbaric Muscovy on the threshold of printing and education."

Hon. Charles H. Percy, Senator from Illinois

"Through the long night of Soviet domination the people of Byelorussia have maintained their cultural and national identity. They have continued to express their firm determination to live in freedom and to govern themselves.

Accordingly we too express our belief in the sanctity of their cause and affirm our hope that the people of Byelorussia will again know freedom. We are united in spirit with those who desire freedom in Byelorussia. We can take heart from the fact that the spirit of freedom lives in Byelorussia, and we pray for the ultimate victory of freedom everywhere in the world."

WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THEM



Since I had access to Soviet and West German (Munich) publications, I had the opportunity to learn more facts about the background of the Byelorussian gymnasts, who performed at the Olympic Games.

The Soviet Union Women's Gymnastic Team consisted of six members, three of whom were Byelorussians. On the photograph above they are standing together in the middle — from left to right they are, Olga Korbut from Grodno, Antanina Koshal from Miensk and Tamara Lazakovich from Vitebsk. The picture was taken before their departure to the Olympics. They are standing in front of the building that houses the Central Committee of the Kamsamol of Byelorussia in Miensk, the capital of BSSR. The other three girls are, on the left, Elvira Saadzi from Groznae, the capital of the Chechen-Inhusk Autonomous Republic located in Northern Caucasus, and next to her Liuba Burda from Tashkent, the capital of the Uzbek SSR. The first girl on the right is Ludmilla Turishcheva from Waroniez in the Russian SSR. So, half of the Soviet Union gymnastic team were Byelorussian girls and it was they, who won the gold medal for the Soviet Union in women gymnastics.

About these oustanding Byelorussian gymnasts we must know. Behind them we find the three best trainers in the BSSR, hundreds of Byelorussian gymnasts, thousands of their classmates and school girls and hundred-thousands of citizens of their hometowns — Miensk, Vitebsk and Grodno — which became known to the whole world because of these girls.

The road to Olympic competition was long and hard. It involved a lot of work and effort to bring Byelorussian athletes to the level of world competition.

It was started by Ronald Knysh, an excellent trainer who even today still coaches great athletes in Grodno. He is also Olga Korbut's coach. He became famous, because he was the first one who made champions out of 12-15 year-old girls. One of his students, Alena Walchenskaya at the age of fourteen became the Champion of BSSR and held the title for the next five years. At the Soviet Union Games, she also won a gold medal in the Track and Field competition.

There are also other great trainers in Byelorussia. Many of them come to Knysh for advice and to learn from him. One of them is Vincent Dmitriyev. In 1964 Dmitriyev brought to the Soviet Union Championships, his fifteen-year-old student Larissa Petrik, who won all competitions and became the Champion of the Soviet Union. This was the first time in the history of the sport that a fifteen-year-old girl became the Soviet Union Champion. That same year, 1964 started with him, the ten-year-old Tamara Lazakovich. Vitebsk became the center of Byelorussian gymnastics.

Now let's get acquainted with Tamara Lazakovich (Lazya as her friends call her). Already in 1966, as a child she participated in the Youth Championships of Byelorussia. Her first performance however, was not very successful. The following year at the school children competition in Leningrad, she won the bronze medal. From there she went to the 4th Sports Marathon in Moscow and when she was asked there, for what place she would compete, she answered: „The first of course!" However, little Lazya did not get the first place this time, but she was among the six most promising gymnasts. She was only fourteen-years-old at that time and most of the other girls were eighteen. Among them was also Larissa Petrik, whom Tamara tried to copy by insisting on doing everything the older girl could do. Even then she showed her characteristic stubborness and persistence.

From that time, Tamara's star was rising rapidly. In 1968 she won the Junior Championship of the Soviet Union. She won all five gold medals. In 1970 she won the first gold medal in adult national competition. She also made the Soviet Union team and returned with a gold medal for the team from the World Championships. In 1971 she won three gold medals at the National Summer Games and became the all-around Champion of the Soviet Union. In the fall of the same year, she took the first place in the 8th European Championships, which took place in Miensk. A number of foreign newsmen called her "Wonder of Wonders". After finishing secondary school, Tamara enrolled at a physical education college.

To the Olympics, Tamara was going as the leader of the team, as a Champion with high hopes. However, Tamara did not get the overall gold medal, even though she was favored. After the disqualification of Olga

Korbut, she had equal opportunity with East Germany's Karin Jantz, but the gold medal in the overall competition went to Ludmilla Turishcheva. Tamara Lazakovich however, won the bronze medal, making her the third best woman gymnast in the world. In the individual events she won a silver medal for her performance on the balance beam and a bronze medal for the floor exercises.

About Antanina Koshal from Miensk and her trainer Victor Chamutou, I could not find much information. She, as well as Olga Korbut are possible competitors of Tamara Lazakovich and are ready to take from her the Soviet Union title.. This is also anticipated by the Soviet Byelorussian youth magazine "Youth".

She is often the first one from the team to perform and the judges are usually much tougher at the beginning of the competition. She is seventeen-years-old and graduated from a school that has very strong sports curriculum.

Olga Korbut, the seventeen-year-old from Grodno won a total of three gold and one silver medal at the Olympics. In addition she also won the hearts of the whole world.

The unfair treatment which she received from the judges shows in the following example. During the exercises on the uneven parallel bars in the individual events Olga Korbut, Ludmilla Turishcheva and Karin Jantz all got the same score, which was 9.80. Later, the grades of Karin Jantz were changed to 9.90 by the judges, giving her the gold and leaving Olga with the silver. This action caused dissatisfaction in the audience and later one of the judges (from East Germany), who was responsible for the change, was dropped from the jury.

Olga Korbut however, became the darling of the world. Sports reporters from 40 countries, who contribute to the sports magazine "World Sports", gave her the title "Sportsman of 1972". The American Press Agency "Associated Press" named her female athlete of the year. The 4-foot 11-inch, 84 pound gymnast received 222 votes from sportswriters and broadcasters across the nation, 20 votes more than the US tennis champion Billy Jean King. Australia's swimmer Shane Gould received 118 votes. Olga Korbut is the first athlete from behind the Iron Curtain to be so honored by the AP in the US and only the sixth foreigner to receive the award since it was begun in 1931.

We should know about these young Byelorussian athletes, because of their talent, modesty and beauty they are examples of the Byelorussian girl. All three of them represented their native country, Byelorussia and their hometowns, even though they competed under the common Soviet Union label.

from Bielarus, Vol. 23, № 190
Z. Stankievic

CORRESPONDENCE WITH UKRAINIANS

The following letter was sent to the editor of the Ukrainian weekly newspaper "Batkivschyna", which is published in Toronto, Canada.

Dear Sirs:

I had the opportunity to read in your newspaper "Batkivschyna" the articles about the participation of Ukrainians at the XX Olympiad in Munich, Germany. The lists are quite impressive, but I simply do not understand why Alexander Medved from Miensk, Olga Korbut from Grodno, Tamara Lazakovich from Viciebsk and Victor Sydiak from Miensk, were mentioned. These athletes are not Ukrainians. They did not come from the Ukrainian SSR and in addition they have repeatedly stated on TV-interviews that they are Byelorussian and from Byelorussia.

Why can't you be satisfied with your Ukrainian athletes and glorify them?

If you consider Byelorussia as part of the Ukraine just because in 10-12th century the whole territory was loosely called Rus, I suggest you review your history. The Byelorussian people developed independently of Kiev and also are of different ethnic origin. At that time Byelorussians had their own dukedoms, who not only waged war against Kiev but often defeated it and in addition to this ruled Kiev and the Kievan Dukedom.

If you are impressed by winning medals, I suggest you add to your gold medal winners list Ludmilla Turishcheva, Shane Gould and particularly Mark Spitz (the winner of seven gold medals). Probably they are also Ukrainians.

In conclusion I would like to quote A. Medved: "I am boundlessly happy for Soviet Sports . . . I am also happy for our Byelorussian Sportsmen who brilliantly participated in the competitions."

Therefore Leave Us Alone!!!!!!

Raisa Stankievic
President

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"Batkivschyna" on November 25, 1972 printed not only their answer, but also the letter translated into Ukrainian. The article begins as follows: "The letter which we received from Miss Raisa Stankievic is written with the assumption that Ukrainian troops have already occupied Miensk, the capital of Byelorussia. We are very pleased, that the President of the Byelorussian Youth Organization is fighting in such a patriotic manner for her countrymen, the athletes who correctly or not, appeared on the list of Ukrainian sportsmen who participated at the 20th Olympiad."

Furthermore, references are made in the article to the traditional friendship between the Ukrainian and Byelorussian people. The desire is expressed by the newspaper that this friendship should continue and deepen.

"Batkivschyna" concluded its long reply with the following words: "If the athletes mentioned by Raisa Stankievic are Byelorussian, then "Smoloskip" (the Ukrainian information agency who printed the Byelorussian athletes among the Ukrainian and "Batkivschyna" copied this list) will definitely return them with apologies to our young Byelorussians. We don't need to "grab" non-Ukrainian athletes, because Ukraine has many of her own. The only thing is Moscow should let them represent their own country in front of the world.

Therefore, Raisa Stankievic tell your Byelorussian youth, that a mistake was made and that Ukrainians desire success for the Byelorussian athletes so that your people may be proud."

We appreciate that "Batkivschyna" clarified this mistake and printed Miss Raisa Stankievic's letter. We thank the Ukrainian weekly for their friendly wishes and their desires for a closer friendship between the Ukrainian and Byelorussian people.

FACTS ON BYELORUSSIA is an informative news bulletin containing quotations and excerpts from various Byelorussian sources along with annotated bibliography. It answers the need of researchers, students, and descendants of Byelorussians who would like quick access to material concerning a country about which little is known in the Western world. FACTS ON BYELORUSSIA is written in English and edited by Dr. Jan Zaprudnik. The subscription rate is $ 5.00 for ten issues. All correspondence should be addressed to: JAN ZAPRUDNIK, Ph. D. P. O. Box 3800, Grand Central Station, New York, N. Y. 10017.

The Executive Committee of B.A.Y.O. — Headquarters
decided to sponsor the
2nd Annual Byelorussian Youth Festival of Talents
which will take place on Sunday, May 27th, 1973
in Schack's Hall, South River, New Jersey.
Byelorussian youth from Cleveland, Canada, Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles, New Brunswick, Highland Park, South River, New York, Connecticut and everywhere, where there are Byelorussians are invited to participate with folkdancing, skits, individual talents and recitations in Byelorussian.

SO LET'S GET READY FOR OUR SHOW!!!!!

THE CHRISTMAS CARD CAPER

It all started at our annual meeting on September 17th, 1972. The new officers for our New York branch of B.A.Y.O. had just been elected, including Josef Kozlakowski as our cultural officer. Two minutes later, Joe already had a brainstorm for increasing the funds in our treasury. We were going to design and sell our own Christmas cards.

The first plan of action was to select the five best designs from amongst the participating members of our group and have a company print several hundred copies of each design. After a little research, we found out that we could not do this because of the tremendous initial cost. But never fear, Joe had another idea. We were to print the cards ourselves. And so, for the next four weeks we spent each Saturday at the hall on 401 Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn getting our merchandise ready.

On a typical Saturday, about half a dozen people show up at about ten or eleven o'clock. Individuals would then go to work either carving out designs on linoleum blocks, cutting and folding paper, or printing the cards. Every hour an alarm clock would ring, at which point one fleet footed soul would dash outside with a handful of dimes and beat the meter maid to each of our cars. A stereo was set up, playing such inspirational music as Beethoven's Symphony № 3 or Lawrence Welk Christmas Songs. At about two in the afternoon we would all break for lunch, which would sometimes be a gourmet feast from nearby Chinatown. This in itself was worth coming for. After sating our appetites, we would get back to work until around six or seven in the evening, when we would clean up and split.

Actually, making the cards was only half the job. Selling them also took some effort. Very few people were able to walk away empty handed after coming in contact with one of our salesmen. In some cases a method of exchange was used. For instance, a couple of Ukrainians bought cards from us after we agreed to purchase tickets from them for a Ukrainian dance concert. We also sent a number of cards by mail to people who we thought would be interested in buying them. We received many compliments on our cards, as well as a few sizable donations to our organization. We would like to express our thanks to Dr. Nicholas Scors for his donation of 25 dollars and to the Rev. F. Chierniawski for his donation of 50 dollars. The older folks were happy to see that we were doing something worthwhile.

Going through all this for the first time was an educational experience for all who were directly involved. We are already planning for Christmas '73 which, without last year's mistakes and with this year's new ideas, should be even more successful as far as our greeting card campaign is concerned.

Halina Tumash

BELAIR AND THE YOUTH

As many young Byelorussians know, Belair Miensk was purchased in 1963 by a group of bipartisan Byelorussians for the purpose of providing a convenient gathering place for all Byelorussians, whether they be of the Catholic, Greek or Byelorussian Orthodox faith. The founding fathers placed particular emphasis on the fact that it would serve as both a cultural and recreational center for the Byelorussian Youth. We have now come to the inevitable question: Why haven't these laudable ideals been accomplished?

The answer to the above question is quite simple, but the solution is more complex. Young Byelorussians should not be overly concerned with the reason for Belair's deterioration in recent years; instead, all young Byelorussians should clamor for a greater say in Belair's future which is intrinsically linked to our future as a viable ethnic group (such as the Jews or Greeks).

Because it is almost impossible to tell it the way it is without telling it the way it was, it is necessary to give a rather sketchy account of some of the past developments which have led to Belair's present degenerate state. From all indication it appears that problems first appeared in 1967 when the Board of Directors led the Corporation to bankruptcy (earlier years were not fruitful either). The reason for this is still unclear; however, it seems that incompetence (and not corruption) was responsible for fiscal disaster. The fact is that it takes qualified personnel with unselfish motives to efficiently run such a "Corporation of Byelorussians". With all due respect to the Board, it appears that neither was in abundance.

The final calamity came just a few years ago when an elite group of stockholders decided to sell Belair to two parishes under the jurisdiction of the Exarch of Constantinople (Istanbul). One of the parishes was Saint Eufrasinnya of Polacak Church in South River, while the other was the recently formed American-Byelorussian St. Cyril of Turau Independent (?) Greek Orthodox Church, Inc. in New York. This act was the grand finale in this crescendo of disaster. The selling of Belair (reportedly for five dollars) defeated the original purpose of Belair Miensk; that is, the resort was no longer bipartisan but partisan, and therefore catering primarily to Byelorussians of this partisan group.

Adherents of the Byelorussian Autocephalic Orthodox Church were completely alienated by this move; however, the Youth has managed to stay above such partisanship, and it has frequented Belair Miensk located in upstate New York, despite this problem. The Youth has participated in all Sport Meets held at Belair since the change of ownership has taken place. It may be argued that it is the Byelorussian Youth who are in fact keeping Belair from total financial ruin (some may argue that this has already occurred).

The point which needs to be stressed is the fact that Byelorussian Youth has a vested interest in Belair. It is the Youth, if no one else, that has the duty of seeing that the original ideals of Belair do in fact become reality.

It must be accepted by all Byelorussians ,both young and old alike, that Belair cannot be returned to bipartisan rule immediately; however, changes can and must be made immediately. The Board of Directors must realize the fact that Belair cannot survive if Byelorussian Youth does not have some sort of role in determining Belair's future. It is time that some of the unscrupulous politicians realize that the Byelorussian Youth is for real and that it is not dormant as they would like to believe. Byelorussian Youth is tired of the unscrupulous few who put their personal interests above the interests of all Byelorussians. The Byelorussian Youth implores the Board of Directors to acknowledge the fact that new blood is needed where the old has failed!

George Azarko

BYELORUSSIAN YOUTH ACTIVITY

CLEVELAND

September 24th, the annual meeting of the Cleveland Branch took place. The new officers that were elected are: Mary Kovalenko — President; Walter Duniec, Jr. — Vice President; Kathy Jarachovic — Secretary; Anita Radziuk — Treasurer and Mike Duniec, Andy Jarachovic and Julie Radziuk — members of the committee.

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October 1st, the Cleveland Branch organized a picnic at the Byelorussian Community Center (Polacak). The food was prepared by the youth and was very tasty. In addition to eating there were also sports competitions between the youth and the older participants of the picnic. The treasury made a good profit.

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October 8th, the Folk Dance Group of the Cleveland Branch performed at the Folk Festival. The dance group was renewed and is under the direction of Mary Kovalenko and with the help and advice of the former director and active member for many years Mr. Walter Duniec, is once again practicing at the Byelorussian Community Center.

Eight couples in their national dress danced the joyful folk dance Mikita for about 3,000 spectators. A picture was printed in the Cleveland newspaper showing three of the dancers and the group was mentioned twice.

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November 6th, the Cleveland Branch had its Halloween Dance at Polacak to which many of the members invited their American school friends.

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November 27th, many members of the BAYO Cleveland Branch

participated in the festivities of the "Captive Nations Week". The mayor of Cleveland, Ralf Perk was one of the leading participants.

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January 6th and 7th, the Cleveland Branch organized the traditional Christmas caroling. They were received with hospitality by the people they visited.

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March 10th, the Cleveland Branch sponsored a pre-Lent dance for the Byelorussian community. The hall and tables were decorated with flowers and candles. All girls wore formal dresses and flowers. During the intermission two Byelorussian lofk dances were performed. Bulba, danced by eight girls and Mikita by eight couples in their beautiful Byelorussian costumes.

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The Cleveland Branch meets every Sunday at the Byelorussian Community Center where they have dance practice, plan future activities, have discussions on various topics and play games.



Girls of the Cleveland Branch Folk Dancing Group

NEW YORK

October 22nd, the BAYO New York Branch co-sponsored with the Byelorussian Women Organization and the Byelorussian American Association of New York, the traditional Dazynki (Thanksgiving). The dance group "Miacielica" performed two dances. George Drazdouski performed on the harmonica and Alice Kipel, Nina Zaprudnik and Raisa Stankievic recited Byelorussian poems. A vase with Byelorussian ornaments containing a bouquet of cornflowers, daisies and red poppies was raffled off.

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October 28th, the youth in New York and New Jersey had a costume party to celebrate Halloween. It was attended by one grey mouse, a black cat, Raggedy Ann, Count and Countess Draculovich, and a number of their friends.

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November 12th, the New York girls' dance group "Miacielica" performed at the East European Music and Dance Festival at Jersey City State College.

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During the months of November and December, the youth in New York spent several Saturdays designing and printing their own collection of original Christmas cards. Josef Kozlakowski, an artist by profession, conceived and directed the project.

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January 20th, the girls in New York had their first volleyball practice in a public school gymnasium rented by BAYO. They are hoping to have a good team by the time Sports Weekend in Belair comes around. Watch out, Cleveland and South River!

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January 27 and 28th, seven members of the New York Branch went skiing at Hunter Mountain in upstate New York. For several it was the first time on skis, and hopefully, not the last. Contrary to the expectations of the parents, not a single broken bone was reported.



Gabriella Bahdan

CHICAGO

November 4th and 5th, the Byelorussian community in Chicago participated at the International Fair as it did for the last 13 years. 42 different ethnic groups took part in the fair. During these two days more than one hundred-thousand people visited the fair.

The Byelorussian stand acqainted visitors with beautiful folk arts and crafts. The traditional Byelorussian Christmas Eve (Kuzia) table was set with traditional dishes. In the corner was a Christmas tree decorated with toys, balls and geometric figures made from paper and straw, which are very popular in Byelorussia.

Of special interest was the ex-

hibit showing spinning of flax into thread and weaving of linen cloth, which are characteristic and common occupations of Byelorussian peasants.

The fair was a great success for the Byelorussian community in Chicago, since this year a Byelorussian girl was elected the Queen of the Fair. Gabriella Bahdan, the daughter of Vasil and Margaret Bahdan. Gabriella graduated last year from high school and now is attending a school to study nursing. The mayor of Chicago, Mr. Daily crowned Miss Bahdan. The coronation was shown on local TV stations and she was featured in a number of Chicago newspapers, representing Byelorussia.

The Folk Dancing Group of the Byelorussian-American Youth Organization in Illinois under the direction of Mrs. Vera Ramuk performed twice. In addition the girls of the dancing group sold Byelorussian food. They looked especially nice in their Byelorussian costumes.

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December 3rd, an instrumental trio led by Mark Sawko-Michalski played at an East European Festival at the Gaumont State Theatre in London, England.

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December 21st, Lucy Winicki informed us that California also has a number of active, young Byelorussians and that they are interested in establishing an official branch of the Byelorussian American Youth Organization in the Los Angeles area. Their dance group "Miacielica" had recently performed for several delegates from Washington at a Republican rally in the Ambassador Hotel, and a few youths had marched downtown in a rally sponsored by the "Captive Nations of the World".

TORONTO

January 14th, as every year, the Christmas celebration (Jalinka) for children, their parents and the Byelorussian community took place in Toronto, Canada.

In addition to the traditional Dzed Maroz (Grandfather Frost), there was also an artistic part, in which students from the Byelorussian Saturday School and members of the Byelorussian Youth Association of Canada took part. This concert was primarily organized by the president, Eva Pashkievich, and vice-president, Jazep Pitushka, of BYAC.

The program had a lot of variety. Byelorussian Christmas carols and folksongs were sung by the students of the Byelorussian Saturday School. The folk dancing group performed Polka Janka. Reciting Byelorussian poems, as taught by the director of the school Mrs. V. Pashkievich were Halina Rymscha, Marusia and Vera Nekrashevich, Marynka Aleshka and Tatiana Balabanovich. There were also musical performances on the piano — Marynka Aleshka and Halina Rymsha, on the accordion — Andrew Waranecki, on the guitar — Peter Waranecki and Marusia Nekrashevich on the organ.



M. A. Sawko-Michalski, lead guitar; Victor Tur, bass & recorders; Harry Shapiro, drums & percussion

ПАШТОВАЯ СКРЫНКА

У нашай паштовай скрынцы пуставата. Гэтак хацелася-б пачуць больш ад нашага грамадзтва водгукаў і парадаў. Але й за тое, што мы атрымалі, шчыра Вам удзячныя. Наагул можна сказаць, што ў атрыманых нам выказзаньнях падчыркваюцца перадусім пазытыўныя бакі часапісу, а пра памылкі й недацяжкі мала ўспамінаецца, магчыма, каб не палохаць дамарослых рэдактароў. Спынімся на некаторых лістох у парадку іхнага атрыманьня.

Першым энтузіястычна прывітаў нас Паважаны Спадар **М. Нікан** з Мэльбурну (Аўстралія) лістом з 29 кастрычніка. Чытаем у ім: „Сяньня атрымаў лётніцкай поштай 1-ы нумар Вашага часапісу „Беларуская Моладзь" з Вашым лістом (ліст быў пісаны да Старшыні Галоўнай Управы АБАМ — Рэд.) і адразу адказваю. Дзякую найшчырэй, доўга мы на яго чакалі. Цяпер толькі жадаць Вам памыснасьці й рэгулярнага далейшага выданьня гэтага так патрэбнага для ўсёй беларускай моладзі на чужыне часапісу . . ."

Другім вітаў нас Спадар **Доктар Янка Станкевіч.** Ён прывітаў нас зь дзейнасьцяй. Відаць, моцна баліць старэйшаму беларускаму

дзеячу, удзельніку гістарычнага паседжаньня Рады БНР 25 сакавіка 1918 году ў Менску, на якім была абвешчаная незалежнасьць Беларусі, бязьдзейнасьць некаторых нашых арганізацыяў і паасобных людзей. Шмат тэхнічных парадаў дае нам Доктар: як абнізіць кошт друкаваньня ды павялічэньня матарыялаў, друкаваных у беларускай мове. Вельмі дзякуем за прызнаньне й увагу да нас, парады прымем пад увагу на нашых наступных паседжаньнях.

Асабліва цэнным зьяўляецца для нас ліст з 15 сьнежня летась ведамага беларускага пісьменьніка на эміграцыі **Кастуся Акулы** ад Беларускага Выдавецка-Мастацкага Клюбу „Пагоня" ў Тароньце (Канада). Мы хочам пазнаёміць нашых чытачоў, а асабліва моладзь зь ягонымі прафэсыйнымі парадамі і выказаным для нас прызнаньнем, а таму зьмяшчаем ягоны ліст поўнасьцяй:

„Паважаныя Сябры й Сяброўкі!

Хоць мы векам за Вас старэйшыя, але зьвяртаемся да Вас як да Сяброў і Сябровак, бо ў працы нацыянальнай і грамадзкай мы бязумоўна ёсьць і будзем сябрамі.

Дык вось атрымалі першы нумар часапісу „Беларуская Моладзь". Удалы. Гэтта не падходзіць тая беларуская прыказка пра „першы блін комам". Відаць, што й пры падборцы матарыялу, і тэхніцы выданьня працавалі людзі дбайлівыя, стараліся, каб гэтае зноў народжанае „дзецішча" ня чырванела за свой выгляд. Пэўне-ж, ёсьць і некаторыя хібы, але пры добрай волі яны зьнікнуць. Найважнейшая, бадай, справа, што трэба, дзе гэта магчыма, называць аўтараў матарыялаў. У Вас некалькі артыкулаў бяз аўтараў. Чаму? Ананімнасьць для паважнага часапісу карысьці ня прыносіць.

Важна, каб была ў часапісе вокладка. Хіба-ж трэба тлумачыць, нашто гэта патрэбна?

Варта, каб ў будучыні кажны нумар часапісу меў прынамся адну рэцэнзію на кнігу, якую варта было-б прачытаць моладзі нашай і старэйшым, можа. Яшчэ таксама добра было-б, каб зьмяшчаліся інтэрв'ю з нашымі суродзічамі з грамадзкага, палітычнага ці творчага сьвету. Вось, на пачатак, гэткія мае парады.

Дазвольце-ж ад імя „Пагоні" павіншаваць Вас з выхадам першага нумару часапісу, пажадаць Вам многа здароўя і сілаў да працы, а часапісу — росту й росквіту. Вясёлых Калядз і шматлікіх посьпехаў у Новым 1973 Годзе! Жыве Беларусь!"

Ад Рэдакцыйнай Калегіі мы хочам сказаць, у бальшыні з прапановамі Сп. К. Акулы мы згаджаемся, як, прыкладам, у справе аўтарства артыкулаў, зьмяшчаньня рэцэнзіяў на кнігі (калі знойдзем з часам рэцэнзэнта). У справе-ж вокладкі мы мусім лічыцца з дадатковым выдаткам за афармленьне й надрукаваньне. Гэтая справа ў нас пакульшто дыскутуецца. Мы даём нагоду для сяброў

маладзежных арганізацыяў зьбіраць нумары часапісу, каб іх падшываць у папкі ці пазьней пераплесьці ў кніжку і гэткім спосабам перахаваць надрукаваны матарыял.

Зь Лёндану піша да Старшыні Галоўнай Управы АБАМ Сп. **Аляксандар Лашук** 17 лютага сёлета й інфармуе, што студэнт М. Саўка-Міхальскі „нібы выразіў згоду тэлефанічна на прыняцьце прадстаўніцтва часапісу „Беларуская Моладзь" на Ангельшчыну". Мы вітаем гэтую магчымасьць і пастараемся навязаць кантакт у гэтай справе із сп. М. Саўкам-Міхальскім. Далей Сп. Лашук зьвяртаецца да Старшыні Галоўнай Управы АБАМ, каб яна палагодзіла справу пакрыцьця належнага доўгу за высыланыя кнігі ў 1960-63 гадох для кіёску ў Нью Ёрку, які вяла маладзежная арганізацыя за кадэнцыяй старшыні В. Станкевіча, ад якога пераняў кніжны кіёск Васіль Мельяновіч. Вось на гэтым месцы і давозіцца нам спыніцца на недаведзенай да канца справе, якую мы атрымоўваем у спадчыне. Мы мусім прызнацца, што матарыяльная база нашае арганізацыі даволі сьціплая, і мы ніяк ня можам урэгуляваць належнасьці ў вышыні каля 400 даляраў за дрэнную гаспадарку кіраўніцтва 10 гадоў таму назад. Аднак мы пастараемся ў меру магчымасьці выясніць гэтую справу.

Сп. А. Лашук піша: „Хоць мінула ўжо 10 год часу, уважаю, што маю маральнае права дамагацца пакрыцьця арганізацыяй належнасьці. Праз занятасьць ня было магчымасьці закрануць гэтую справу раней, да таго, ня было зь кім . . ."

Ня зусім мы можам згадзіцца з гэтым. Маральнае права дамагацца заплаты даўгу бязумоўна ёсьць, але чаму гэта празь дзесяць год „праз занятасьць" не знайшоў Сп. Лашук часу, каб старацца спагнаць доўг, а цяпер яго знайшоў і прыпомніў пра свой маральны абавязак у дачыненьні да нас, якія нічагусенькі пра доўг зь перад 10 год ня ведаюць. З усёй энэргіяй і ўпорыстасьцяй мы стараемся падняць працу зь беларускай моладзяй, згуртаваць, узварухнуць з апатыі малады беларускі дух, зь цяжкімі высілкамі здабываем першыя сьціплыя фонды, каб магчы існаваць, каб наш часапіс не памёр. І чаму гэты наш пачын мае якраз адразу наткнуцца на вялікі камень на сваёй дарозе — незаплачаны і неспагнаны праз 10 гадоў доўг!? Мы ўсё-ж прапануем Сп. Лашуку нашае супрацоўніцтва ў выясьненьні гэтае справы і толькі гэта мы можам прапанаваць.

Прыемна нам прыгадаць таксама, што на сьвяткаваньні ўгодкаў Дня Гэрояў у Кліўленьдзе Старшыня мясцовага Аддзелу Беларуска-Амэрыканскага Задзіночаньня **Ул. Дунец** у сваёй прамове публічна заклікаў прысутных, каб набывалі й чыталі часапіс „Беларуская Моладзь", зазначаючы, што ён карысны ня толькі для моладзі, а й для дарослых ды навет дзяцей.

Чатыры лісты ды дзесяткі вусных заўвагаў, парадаў і віншаваньняў атрымалі мы ад нашага старэйшага грамадзтва. Мы ўсё-ж чакаем, калі нашая прафэсыянальная культурна-навуковая эліта прыкмеціць нашае існаваньне, наш сьціплы пачын у выдавецкай дзялянцы і нешта нам скажа.

Ад моладзі маем некалькі энтузіястычных лістоў, а галоўнае — энтузіястычную падтрымку. Гэта беларуская моладзь раскупіла, разхапіла ўсе чыста экзэмпляры часапісу і нам яго не хапіла. Таму й просім сардэчна, калі ў каго з прадстаўнікоў ці асобаў, якім быў высланы часапіс, засталіся лішнія экзэмпляры, зьвярніце іх нам назад, каб мы маглі выслаць тым, што хочуць яго набыць. Нам даводзіцца павялічыць тыраж часапісу. Гэта і ёсьць падзякай і прызнаньнем нам за працу й надзеяй на будучыню, прыемным сьцьверджаньнем, што ідзём у правільным кірунку. Мы ўсё-ж чакаем цясьнейшага кантакту з Вамі, Сяброўкі й Сябры, жывейшага абмену думак. Мы чакаем на Вашыя заўвагі й лісты.

Канчаючы, Рэдакцыйная Калегія дзякуе ўсім тым, хто папрацаваў пры выдаваньні часапісу, пры ягоным рэдагаваньні, тэхнічным афармленьні й распаўсюджваньні. Шчырае беларускае дзякуй за супрацоўніцтва, зацікаўленьне й падтрыманьне!

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